

July 15, 2010

Members of the Ways and Means Committee
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Re: Hearing on Social Security at 75 Years

Dear Representatives:

I write to urge the Ways and Means Committee to do all in your power to insure that Congress takes immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Five years ago, I retired after 36 years of public service as a teacher in California. I worked for a number of years before I became a teacher, served in the U.S. Army and over my teaching career did historical consulting. I paid into the Social Security program for all these activities, fully believing that I would get a basic benefit when I finally turned 65. Imagine my surprise that my government now feels that I don't deserve the benefit I earned.

The GPO/WEP offsets are simply unfair. Public employees such as teachers, police officers and firefighters should not suffer a penalty for choosing to earn their living in public service. Moreover, the GPO/WEP must certainly discourage talented people from entering public service.

Please get these bills out of committee and to a vote in Congress. And, if Congress does take up overall social security reform, please include in any reform repeal of the GPO/WEP.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Williams
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